ded rule comes into force from the date of its publication in the Gazet-

Procurement of uninfected blood

1369. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Baby gets AIDS from infected blood" appearing in the "Indian Express" of the 24th July, 1990;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the blood pro cured from the blood banks are not infected; and

(c) whether any action was taken against this particular blood bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) The Government has seen the news-item captioned 'Baby gets AIDS from infected blood' appeared in the Indian Express dated 24-07-1990.

(b) According to the report of western blot test, the baby was not found positive for HIV Antibodies.

However, to ensure safety in blood transfusion services, a zona-lised system of blood testing for screening blood for HIV antibodies has been implemented in four metropolitan cities and similar arrangements are being extended to major cities, in a phased manner.

(c) Does not arise.

Fall in the production of some important drugs

1370. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the drug manufacturers have stop ped production of certain life saving drugs like Dapsone, Iouprofen, etc;

(b) if so, whether this is being done in order to pressurise Govern ment to increase the prices of such drugs; and

(c) if so, what are the details the drugs of which the production has stopped and what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETRO-LEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) Government have no information in this regard.

Payment of interim relief to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

1371. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETRO-LEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had transferred Rs. 360/- crores to Madhya Pradesh Government to disburse the interim relief of Rs. 200/- per month to each of the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the victims have not got the money so far; and

(c) if so, what steps are bsing taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETRO-LEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Government have sanctioned dis-bursement of an amount of Rs. 360/- crores for making payment of interim relief to all persons residing in 36 severely affected municipal